

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Page 1 after the title insert the following:

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

1. Field of the Invention.

Page 1, after line 4 and before line 5, insert the following:

2. Discussion of Prior Art

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 1, line 5 with the following amended paragraph:

The device which is particularly described in this specification in connection with a preferred embodiment is a spatial light modulator in the form of a smectic liquid crystal layer disposed between an active semiconductor backplane and a common front electrode. It was developed in response to a requirement for a fast and, if possible, inexpensive, spatial light modulator comprising a relatively large number of pixels with potential application not only as a display device, but also for other forms of optical processing such as correlation and holographic switching. Our copending International Patent Applications even filing and priority dates (PCT/GB99/04285, ~~ref: P20957WO~~ U.S. Serial No. 09/868,219, priority GB9827952.4; PCT/GB99/04286 and PCT/GB99/04276, ~~refs: P20958WO~~ U.S. Serial No. 09/868,239 and ~~P20958WO~~ U.S. Serial No. 09/868,220, both priority GB9827965.6; PCT/GB99/04282, ~~ref: P20959WO~~ U.S. Serial No. 09/446,325, priority GB9827900.3; PCT/GB99/04274, ~~ref: P20961WO~~ U.S. Serial No. 09/868,218, priority GB9827964.9; PCT/GB99/04275, ~~ref: P20962WO~~ U.S. Serial No. 09/868,217, priority GB9827945.8; and PCT/GB99/04260 and PCT/GB99/04277, ~~refs: P20963WO~~ U.S. Serial No. 09/868,241 and ~~P20963WO~~ U.S. Serial No. 09/868,242, both priority GB 9827944.1) relate to other inventive aspects associated with the spatial light modulator.

Page 9, before line 1 insert the following:

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION.

Page 12, before the first line insert the following:

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS.

Page 12, after line 14 and before line 15 insert the following:

DETAILED DISCUSSION OF THE DRAWINGS.

Page 12, replace the paragraph beginning on line 25 with the following:

Front electrode 6 comprises a generally rectangular planar glass or silica substrate 7 coated on ~~its~~ the substrate underside, facing the backplane 3, with a continuous electrically conducting silk screened indium-tin oxide layer 8. On one edge side of the substrate 7 is provided an evaporated aluminum edge contact 9, which extends round the edge of the substrate and over a portion of the layer 8, thereby providing an electrical connection to the layer 8 in the assembled cell 1.